

A state Senate committee failed to pass a bill that would have granted nurse practitioners in Arkansas to have prescriptive authority without the necessity of a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician. KUAR's Sarah Kellogg explains.

**Nursing Bill Fails Wrap****:56****SOC**

*Currently, nurse practitioners who want to operate independently, need a practice agreement to treat their patients at the same level as a physician, including the ability to prescribe medication. The bill would have removed this requirement. Some other states in the country have removed this demand.*

*Sen. David Wallace, one of the bill's sponsors, said removing the requirement for a practice agreement would allow for more Arkansans to be treated across the state. According to Wallace, Arkansas continuously ranks lower in the country on medical treatment.*

**Nursing Bill Fails Wrap****:21****“...for healthcare”**

***“We consistently rank in this area. In 2017, we ranked 48 in senior care. In 2017, we ranked 49 in the country in our care of our women and our children. Our nurse practitioners can help fill that gap and give access for healthcare.”***

*After hearing testimony from everyone scheduled to speak on the bill, the committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor voted against it, with a vote of 5-3.*

*Sarah Kellogg, KUAR News.*